

THE BIPPERT-KUECK HOMESTEAD

Owners: Louis & Carole Romano

Having bought a lot from Henri Castro for \$1.00 in 1847, and receiving a second lot for his stone work on the Catholic Church, Jacob Bippert built his house soon afterwards.

The original house was a 7 1/2 x 21 foot one-room limestone rock dwelling with plastered walls and a dirt floor, which was probably rocked at a later date. It had a front and a back door with windows on each side, contained a fireplace, and housed a family of nine.

In 1869 Jacob Bippert and wife, Magdalena, sold their home to Henry J. Kueck for \$180.00.

About 1872 Mr. Kueck made an addition to the house by adding a long hallway running from front to back with a room on either side. It also was made of limestone and covered with plaster. The dining room floor is original cypress wood. Fireplaces were in both rooms and the mantels are original. Also, the original front windows have been used as the doors to cabinets in the dining room.

The rock walls of the house vary between 14 and 18 inches. Later wooden additions attached to the house have been removed. In the back yard, there is a hand-dug, rock-lined well about 27 feet deep with 3 1/2 feet of water in it.

When the house was purchased in August 1990 by Louis & Carole Romano, it had not been lived in since 1979. It had fallen into ruin, was filled with trash and debris, and had all the doors, knobs, and shutters missing. In the midst of the trash and debris a picture of a house saint - Sainte Therese of Lisieux - was found. She had been ripped out of her frame and thrown on the floor by vandals. She was reframed, and during the house blessing, Father Mike Horan blessed her as well. The property is now called "Ferme Sainte Therese" in her honor.

The Romanos have completely restored the original house and have added rooms for more convenient living.

The house has the Pioneer Castroville Home Marker.



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